

Response and Remarks

Summary of Interview with Examiner

On May 26, 2006, the Applicant had a brief telephone conversation with the Examiner. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for her time and suggestions. The Applicant said, regarding the claims which the Examiner stated in the Office Action would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, that the Applicant would amend the claims to put them in independent form. The Applicant said that all other claims would be cancelled in order to make the case allowable. The Applicant noted that he intends to file a continuation application before the issuance of a patent to address the subject matter of the cancelled claims. The Examiner agreed with this plan, and agreed that there was no need in this filing to respond to the Examiner's arguments in the Office Action regarding the cancelled claims. She said just to state that the amendments to the remaining claims make the objection to those claims moot. She said that normally she would just do an Examiner's amendment to effectuate this filing, but that because of the need to file for an extension of time, it would be better to do the present filing in paper.

Discussion of Amendments

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1-4, 6-24, 26-30, 34-67, 71, and 74-75 were pending in this case, with claims 5, 25, 31-33, 68-70, and 72-73 previously cancelled at the instruction of the Examiner. The Examiner objected to claims 16-20 and 40-49 because they depended from rejected claims, but said that they had allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected all the remaining claims.

In this response, the Applicant rewrites claims 16-20 and 40-49 as instructed by the Examiner and cancels all the remaining claims. The Applicant intends to file a continuation

application in the future to address the cancelled claims, and likely will include a preliminary amendment. The Applicant requests that the Examiner enter all amendments and find that all claims are now allowable as written.

Discussion of the Objected to Claims

Claim 16 depended from rejected claim 1, but is now rewritten in independent form. Claims 40 and 45 depended from claim 21, but now are rewritten in independent form. Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16, so they do not require rewriting. Similarly, claims 41-44 depend from claim 40, and claims 46-49 depend from claim 45, so these are not rewritten. The amendments take away any dependency on rejected claims and put these claims in condition for allowance.

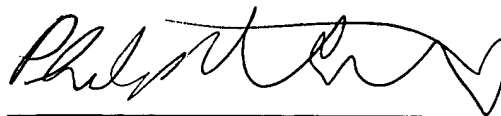
Examiner's Response to Applicant's Arguments and Rejections

Since all remaining claims are cancelled, it is not necessary to address the cancelled claims here. The Examiner's arguments will be addressed in the preliminary amendment that will accompany the future filing of a continuation application.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued for the remaining claims, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATED: May 26, 2006